

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /074 W

----- 128060

P R 080920Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3489

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0673

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: RECENT MILITARY ACTION IN ASMARA AREA

REF: A. NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA 052220Z AUG 75

B. NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA 052305Z AUG 75

C. NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA 052340Z AUG 75

D. NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA 060040Z AUG 75

E. ASMARA 0668

1. FIRING TO THE NW OF ASMARA, REPORTED REFTELS, APPEARS
TO HAVE BEEN RELATED TO CONTINUING ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN EPMG
FORCES AND FRONT WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON NOW AT VARYING
STAGES OF INTENSITY SOME 6-10 KMS OUT ON KEREN ROAD FOR BETTER
PART OF A WEEK.

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2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES, SOME 300 COMMANDO POLICE ENGAGED FRONT IN THAT AREA LAST WEEKEND. FINDING THEMSELVES IN TROUBLE, COMMANDOS CALLED FOR HELP AND THIRTY TRUCKLOADS OF TROOPS WERE REPORTEDLY DISPATCHED FROM ASMARA ON THURSDAY EVENING. FIRING REPORTED REFTELS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PART OF INSURGENT ATTEMPT TO PREVENT REINFORCEMENT BY SIMULTANEOUSLY ENGAGING ATTENTION TROOPS AT 2ND DIV HDQS AT TRACT E AND COMMANDO POLICE AT TRACT F AND VICINITY TRACT B WHILE OTHER INSURGENT FORCES TRIED TO AMBUSH REINFORCEMENTS FURTHER OUT OF ASMARA. IT IS FURTHER REPORTED THAT DURING FIREFIGHT INSURGENTS SUCCESSFULLY RAIDED EPMG WAREHOUSE IN NORTHWESTERN FRINGE OF TOWN, CARRYING OFF BOTH FOOD AND MEDICINE, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF FIRE IN THAT AREA.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTS IN ASMARA OR ENVIRONS SINCE AUG. 5, BUT AS OF THIS WRITING HEAVY EXPLOSIONS, PROBABLY BOMBING, AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE CAN BE HEARD FAINTLY IN DIRECTION KEREN, STRONGLY SUGGESTING ACTION STILL GOING ON.

4. WE WILL TRY TO REPORT FURTHER ON PROGRESS AND OUTCOME THIS ENGAGEMENT.
SHERRY

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NNN

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